

Crystal Cave Rocks!



Explore fabulous formations! Protected since its discovery in 1918, this is the only one of over 200 known caves in these parks that can be toured.

No tickets are sold at the cave, only at Foothills and Lodgepole visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours in advance of your tour, and check timing of road delays between the Foothills and the cave.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance on Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see map on page 12). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m).

Use restrooms at the parking lot; there are none at the cave. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket; the cave is 50°F (10°C). No strollers, baby backpacks, or tripods. Not wheelchair accessible.

Ask about Wild Cave Tours and group reservations! Tours operated by SNHA: 1-559-565-3759.

45-minute cave tours (check details above) through October 29, weather permitting

Schedule: Sunday - Friday tours at 11am, 1pm & 2pm; Saturday at 11am, 12pm, 2pm & 3pm; (tours through 10/29, weather permitting).

Fees: Purchase tickets only at Foothills & Lodgepole visitor centers. Adults \$10.95; Children under 13 \$5.95; Children under 6 - free; Seniors (age 62) \$8.95.

Activities

WALKS & TALKS Free ranger-led walks or talks may be offered at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, and the Foothills. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled. Pages 8 and 9 have more details, or ask a ranger.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy (check out the new exhibits at the visitor center in Grant Grove). They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases at visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8 and 9 for hours and locations.

TEACHERS: BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

Rangers offer fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th-grade classes in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date for your class, call 1-559-565-4303.

FIELD CLASSES & SEMINARS

See the exciting list of options for you on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award! Purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!



81st Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

Sunday, December 10, 2006

This ceremony, at the base of the General Grant Tree in Grant Grove, honors those who have given their lives in service to their country. Sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce: 1-559-875-4575 for information.

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn more, and use a map to know where you are!

- **WALK A PET?** In Parks: Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). In National Forest: Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.
- **GO CAMPING?** In Parks: Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. In National Forest: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.

- **COLLECT THINGS?** Not in Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. In National Forest: Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.
- **HUNT?** Not in the Parks. Firearms must be dismantled and stored out of sight prior to entering national parks. In National Forest: Only 9/23/06 through 10/22/06, with license. For information: 559-243-4005.
- **HAVE A FIRE?** In Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. In National Forest: Fire permits required outside picnic area grills & campgrounds. Get one at Grant Grove Visitor Center or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.
- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** Not in either area. Stay on roads.

- **CUT WOOD?** Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
- **GO FISHING?** In both areas: Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.
- **RIDE A BICYCLE?** In Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. In National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.
- **GO PICNICKING?** See picnic symbols on map (back page). Never leave food unattended! Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, & Powdercan.

Note: Big Stump Picnic Area in Grant Grove (Kings Canyon National Park) will reopen later this fall. It has temporarily served as the park entrance station since the original station was moved due to a dangerously leaning sequoia.

- **RIDE HORSEBACK** Fall: Backcountry spot trips & guides. Rides by-the-hour added in summer.

Cedar Grove: Closes mid-October

1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove: Closed

1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Horse Corral: Closes mid-October (at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest south of Grant Grove)

1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell

Mineral King - closed